

Ahmad Ayed, Malakeh Z. Malak*, Manwa Ayed, Riyad Allayed and Mustafa Shouli

Knowledge, attitudes, and practices toward infection control precautions among nurses in Palestinian hospitals

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Abstract

Objectives: Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are common complications in healthcare services, often caused by unsystematic antibiotic use. Despite advancements in medical care and technologies, the burden of HAIs continues to increase globally. Thus, this study purposed to evaluate the levels of knowledge, attitudes, and practices toward infection control precautions among nurses in Palestinian hospitals and identify the predictors of practices of infection control precautions.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted on 285 nurses who work at Palestinian hospitals in the West Bank. A self-reported questionnaire was used to collect data during the period from November 2022 to January 2023.

Results: The results revealed that 95.8 % of the participants endorsed good knowledge levels, 83.5 % reported positive attitude levels, and 91.2 % endorsed good practice levels toward infection control precautions. Also, gender as being female, attending a training program on infection control, and having good knowledge of infection control precautions were the main factors influencing practices of infection control precautions.

Conclusions: It is necessary to maintain nurses' knowledge, attitudes, and practices toward infection control precautions by continuously conducting training workshops about infection control updating knowledge, and enhancing the work environment by implementing infection control policies and guidelines and providing sufficient resources and equipment to ensure safe practices.

Keywords: infection control; healthcare-associated infections; nurses; knowledge; attitudes; practice

Introduction

Quality improvement is the framework utilized to enhance care. It focuses on improving the process and structure of the framework to minimize differences, execute outcome results, and improve patients' outcomes in healthcare systems and institutions [1]. Health-care-associated infections (HAIs) or hospital-acquired infections are one of the major issues that need continuous quality improvement. These infections are obtained when patients are given treatment for clinical conditions (medical or surgical) (World Health Organization [2]). HAIs are the most common complications that take place during the provision of healthcare services and are frequently produced by the unsystematic use of antibiotics [2]. Globally, the burden of HAIs is increasing regardless of progress in medical care and technologies [3].

The frequency of various HAIs differs between countries according to economic status. HAIs constitute a remarkable burden and safety attention for patients in developing countries [4]. The risk of acquiring HAI is

*Corresponding author: Malakeh Z. Malak, RN, PhD, Professor, Community Health Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan, Box 130 Amman, 11733, Jordan, E-mail: malakeh.m@zuj.edu.jo. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2412-2999>

Ahmad Ayed, Pediatric Health Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Arab American University of Palestine (AAUP), Jenin, Palestine

Manwa Ayed, Al-Mansoura University, Mansoura, Egypt

Riyad Allayed, Ministry of Health, Medical-Surgical, Tubas AL, Türkiye

Mustafa Shouli, Community Health Nursing, Nablus University for Vocational & Technical Education, Nablus, Palestine